



COPYRIGHT ROYALTY TRIBUNAL
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1111 20th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
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COMMISSIONERS:
Thomas C. Brennan
Douglas E. Coulter
Mary Lou Burg
Clarence L. James, Jr.
Frances Garcia

February 28, 1980

Mr. Seth Wittner
359 S. Cochran #101
Los Angeles, CA 90036


Dear Mr. Wittner:

Thank you for your letter of February 10, 1980 expressing your views on the increase in the existing compulsory mechanical rate.

Please be assured that when this issue comes before the Tribunal this spring your concerns will be taken into careful consideration.

Thank you for your interest and for writing the Tribunal.

Sincerely,


Mary Lou Burg
Chairman

359 S. Cochran #101
Los Angeles, CA 90036
February 10, 1980

Mr. Douglas Coulter
Chairman
Copyright Royalty Tribunal
1111 20th Street NW
Room 450
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Coulter:

I am a professional songwriter, and I want you to know that those of us in my profession are concerned about the actions of the Copyright Tribunal. As you are well aware, the 3/4 of a penny that was added to the pre-existing 2 cent per copy minimum is hardly reflective of the staggering increase in the cost of living and the shrinkage of the dollar's power over the last 50 years. Songwriters do not really have access to some of this age's methods of negotiating increases in pay and benefits such as the strike. I doubt that we even have lobbyists. Yet the services we render are not to be taken lightly. Regardless of one's musical taste, it is fairly certain that one does enjoy and need some sort of music in one's daily life. We would be a very sick nation indeed with no popular music to sooth and/or inspire us. Think about it and see whether you agree. My profession is an exceedingly difficult one to break into and to survive in. There are few guarantees of weekly income such as most workers enjoy. Therefore, it is imperative that we earn as much as possible from those songs which "sell" in tremendous numbers. If the record companies succeed^{at} chipping away at our rightful share of the industry's income, and thus make it impossible for emerging talent to survive while careers are in the early stages, there will be very few songwriters left in a short time. We will all be the poorer for that. I firmly believe that the present statutory rate of 2 3/4¢ must be raised in the near future and never lowered. Keep in mind that music does not come from nowhere. Flesh and blood human beings create it, and they must have food on their table like anyone else. We are not all rich rock-and-rollers. Thank you for your consideration of these points.

Respectfully,

Seth Wittner
Seth Wittner